

Programme Specification

MA Archaeology (full-time)

PFTARCHM

MA Archaeology (part-time)

PPTARCHM

For students entering in 2023/24

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	MA Archaeology (full-time) - 12 months MA Archaeology (part-time) - 2 years
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

This programme provides a flexible, systematic and advanced understanding of the human past through the study and interpretation of archaeological evidence, with a strong emphasis on independent research. The programme offers the opportunity to develop archaeological knowledge by studying a variety of timescales and themes through a series of period or skills-based optional modules. Students can enhance their studies through a vocational and workplace-based placement. Students will develop a critical perspective on our understanding of the past, through a deeper understanding of our methods, quality of the evidence and theoretical approaches. This course prepares students for employment within the Heritage sector and beyond, and provide the necessary training to continue into doctoral research.

Module information

The programme comprises of 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
ARMDISSI	Dissertation	60	M
ARMPPIR	Preparing for Research	10	M
ARMTAA	Theoretical Approaches in Archaeology	10	M

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science or from an approved list of modules from across the University

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme may be taken over two years on a part-time basis. Selection of modules between the two years will be agreed between the student and the Programme Director at the start of the programme. Completion of ARMTAA and Participation in the Dissertation

Workshop (including submission of the Dissertation proposal and attendance at the Conference presentation) is recommended in Year 1. The Dissertation is submitted at the end of the second year. It is anticipated that students will normally complete at least 60 credits worth of modules in Year 1. Modules will be assessed in the year that they are taken. The programme may also be taken on a modular basis, with the Dissertation being taken in the final year.

Additional costs of the programme

There may be some costs associated with particular modules (i.e. textbooks) but these are dependent on the options taken. Students wishing to participate in archaeological field work run by the department as an addition to their core studies may be asked to contribute to the cost of travel and subsistence. Costs are dependent on the location and duration of the field work.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2022.

Optional modules

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Placement opportunities

There are opportunities to participate in departmental research projects, including fieldwork and post-excavation; and students may have the opportunity to work with our commercial arm QUEST. Quaternary Scientific (QUEST) provides archaeological, forensic and environmental scientific services to industry. Students have the opportunity to take research and placement modules as part of the programme. International placement opportunities may be available for students interested in medieval Central and Eastern European archaeology. Our Erasmus exchange agreements, with the Department of Medieval Studies at the Central European University in Budapest, as well as the institutes of archaeology at the University of Lund (Sweden) and Toruń (Poland), enable students to take advantage of courses and facilities focusing on the inter-disciplinary study of the Middle Ages. Placements are also available on excavations taking place in the UK and in north-eastern Europe associated with major departmental projects, currently these focus on the Baltic Crusades and Anglo-Saxon Monasticism, but opportunities are subject to change.

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Teaching and learning delivery

The specific teaching and learning methods vary between specialist optional modules, but all are based on a mixture of lectures, workshops, seminars and tutorials, and each module is assessed by a variety of coursework including essays, specialist reports, paper critiques, and oral presentations. The dissertation comprises a piece of independent research, directed through dissertation workshops, plus a series of one-to-one tutorials with your supervisor. The Dissertation is assessed based on a research design, oral presentation at a student Conference and the written dissertation.

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is 494 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The MA in Archaeology is assessed entirely by coursework, unless students are taking a language module as that will involve formal oral and written examination as appropriate.

Progression

N/A

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degree

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iv. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iv. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iv. the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Diploma

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits; and
- ii. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iii. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits; and
- ii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iii. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; and
- ii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and

- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Certificate

To qualify for a **Postgraduate Certificate**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits; and
- ii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

MA Archaeology (full-time) for students entering in session 2023/24
17 June 2022

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